

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed on December 14, 2007. The Amendments filed on September 7, 2007 and September 23, 2007 were considered non-compliant by the Examiner because claims 1 and 3 did not include proper identification of the added limitations. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant hereby resubmits the remarks as set forth in the Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed September 7, 2007, and the Supplemental Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 filed September 24, 2007. The remarks are as follows:

Claims 1, 3-9 and 15-17 are all the claims pending in the present Application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 3-9 and 15-17. Applicants also cancel claims 2 and 10-14.

With regard to the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on November 2, 2005, the Examiner contends that it is improper. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the IDS fails to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98 because the references listed on the PTO/SB/08 form have not been provided. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants respectfully note that a copy of the International Search Report in a counterpart Application was submitted along with the IDS of November 2, 2005. The International Search Report caused the references to be listed in the IDS. Further, the USPTO should have received copies of the references cited in the International Search Report from the International Bureau. Based on Applicant's review of the Image File Wrapper at USPTO website, it appears that the references have not been received from the International Bureau.

In the IDS of November 2, 2005, Applicants also noted that any reference not received from the International Bureau would be furnished by the Applicants upon request. As such, Applicants assert that the IDS filed on November 2, 2005 was proper and no additional fee is required at this time. Additionally, for the Examiner's convenience, Applicants attach a copy of the references cited in the International Search Report that were not received from the International Bureau.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the JP 11-180162 reference.

II. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6, 9 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Ihata (U.S. Patent No. 6,198,188). Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ihata. The Examiner has also rejected claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ihata as applied to claim 1 above, in view of Kinoshita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,517,401). Applicants respectfully disagree.

Ihata relates to a rectifier cooling fin arrangement of a vehicle AC generator. For this purpose, Ihata discloses a rectifier (6) which has a plurality of "cooling fins." Further, the rectifier 6 is fixed to the rear frame (5) which holds the rotor (3) and the stator (2). The rotor (3) of Ihata also includes cooling fans (36) attached to the front and rear side of the rotor. The rectifier (6) of Ihata is covered by a rear cover (9), which has a plurality of air intake windows located on its rear wall. Additionally, the rectifier (6) of Ihata is used to convert three-phase AC power generated by the stator winding into DC power.

With regard to claim 1, the Examiner has already conceded that Ihata fails to teach, or even suggest, an inverter module, a field control device or a control device. (See Office Action, page 9, with respect to the elements of claims 10-13). However, the Examiner attempts to cure this deficiency by relying on Kinoshita. Applicants respectfully assert that Kinoshita fails to cure the deficient disclosure of Ihata.

Specifically, even if, *arguendo*, Kinoshita taught all of the elements asserted by the Examiner, it would still fail to teach, or even suggest, at least “the inverter module and at least the field current control device or the control device [being] mounted on the heat sink and **a thermal conduction blocking portion** is provided *such that part of the heat sink on which the inverter module is mounted and the part of the heat sink on which the field current control device or the control device is mounted* **are not thermally influenced by each other**,” as recited in claim 1.

In other words, in one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the heat sink is separated by a thermal conduction blocking portion. In this exemplary embodiment, the inverter module is mounted on one side of the heat sink while the control device is mounted on the other part of the heat sink. As a result, the two parts of the heat sink are not thermally influenced by each other. Moreover, the inverter module and the control unit, connected to the respective parts of the heat sink, are also not thermally influenced by each other.

Instead, neither Kinoshita nor Ihata teach a “thermal conduction blocking portion” nor do they teach the specific location of the control element or the inverter module on the heat sink. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record.

Additionally, with regard to claim 1, Ihata fails to teach, or even suggest, at least an “inverter unit [which has] **a heat sink having many heat radiating fins** on at least part of an outer surface.” That is, the inverter unit, according to an exemplary embodiment of the present invention, includes a heat sink, wherein the heat sink has a plurality of heat radiating fins.

In the Office Action of June 7, 2007, the Examiner states “Fig 3B of Ihata shows the rectifier unit (element 6) including **heat sink elements 62 and 63.**” (See Office Action, page 7, ¶12). However, the Examiner relies on the same elements as allegedly disclosing the plurality of heat radiating fins. This is improper.

It is well known that, when examining the claims of an application, “[a]ll words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art.” MPEP § 2143.03; see also *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970). Additionally, “[w]hen evaluating claims for obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103, **all the imitations of the claims must be considered and given weight.**” MPEP § 2143.03; see also *Ex parte Grasselli*, 231 USPQ 393 (Bd. App. 1983) *aff’d mem.* 738 F.2d 453 (Fed. Cir. 1984).

In this case, the Examiner’s interpretation of the claim is impermissibly broad. With regard to claim 1, the Examiner gives no patentable weight to the “having many **heat radiating fins** on at least part of an outer surface” limitation. That is, the Examiner seems to assert that “heat sink elements 62 and 63” of Ihata correspond to **both** the heat sink, and the “many heat radiating fins.” This is clearly improper. For at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is allowable over the cited art of record.

With regard to claims 2 and 10-14, these claims have been canceled. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection of these claims is now moot.

With respect to claim 3 and 8, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3 and 8 are allowable for reasons analogous to those recited with respect to claim 1. They are also allowable because of the additional limitations recited therein.

With respect to claims 4-7, these claims depend from independent claim 1. As such, these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. They are also allowable because of the additional limitations recited therein.

For example, Ihata does not describe the specific layout of the plurality of cooling fins, as set forth in claims 4 and 5. Specifically, as described with respect to claim 1 above, the Examiner regards “cooling fins 62 and 63” as corresponding to the heat sink. However, claims 4 and 5 are directed to the cooling fins which are located on at least the outer surface of the heat sink, and are **not the heat sink itself**. As described above, a heat sink **is not the same as a heat radiating fin**. For at least this additional reason, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 4 and 5 are not anticipated, or rendered obvious, in view of the cited art of record.

With respect to claim 9, this claim depends from independent claim 8. As such, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 9 is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 8.

Next, the Examiner has rejected claims 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ihata in view of Kinoshita as applied to claim 10 and in further view of Sato (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,689). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to claims 15 and 16, these claims depend from independent claim 1. As such Applicants respectfully assert that claims 15 and 16 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Additionally, Applicants have already demonstrated the deficient disclosure of Ihata and Kinoshita, as applied to independent claim 1. The Examiner relies on Sato only for its alleged disclosure of a “MOSFET using SiC in a SiC-SIT structure.” As such, even if, *arguendo*, Sato disclosed all of the additional limitations of claims 15 and 16 as the Examiner asserts, it would still fail to cure the deficient disclosure of Ihata and Kinoshita.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ihata as applied to claims 1-5, in view of Kusase et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,793,144). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to claim 17, this claim depends from independent claim 1. As such Applicants respectfully assert that claim 17 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from claim 1. Additionally, Applicants have already demonstrated the deficient disclosure of Ihata, as applied to independent claim 1. The Examiner relies on Kusase only for its alleged disclosure of the additional limitations of claim 17. As such, even if, *arguendo*, Kusase disclosed all of the additional limitations of claim 17, as the Examiner asserts, it would still fail to cure the deficient disclosure of Ihata.

III. Conclusion

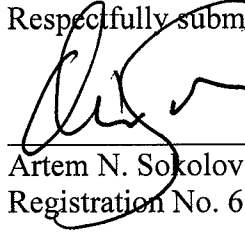
In view of the above, entry of the amendment submitted on September 7, 2007 is hereby requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE TO NOTICE OF NON-COMPLIANT AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.121
Attorney Docket No.: Q90831
Application No.: 10/555,090

This Application is being filed via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS).

Applicants herewith petition the Director of the USPTO to extend the time for reply to the above-identified Office Action for an appropriate length of time if necessary. Any fee due under 37 U.S.C. § 1.17(a) is being paid via the USPTO Electronic Filing System (EFS). The USPTO is also directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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